



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/710,154	11/09/2000	Gary Como.	10022/18	4580

33391 7590 11/29/2005
BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
ONE INDIANA SQUARE, SUITE 1600
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

EXAMINER

ROBINSON BOYCE, AKIBA K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3639

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/710,154	Applicant(s) COMO. ET AL	
	Examiner Akiba K. Robinson-Boyce	Art Unit 3639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 and 34-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 and 34-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Due to communications filed 9/16/05, the following is a non-final office action. Prosecution for this case has been re-opened. Claims 1-22 and 34-37 are pending in this application and have been examined on the merits. The previous rejection has been withdrawn, and the pending claims have been rejected as follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 34, and 35, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wong (US 6,115,690).

As per claim 1, Wong discloses:

obtaining requirement-indicating data of a first entity with respect to the transactional subject, (col. 11, lines 32-38, Here the first entity is represented by the first system user, the transactional subject is represented by the sales assignment or activity focus, and in this case, the user enters information which is quality checked, representing the requirement-indicating data).

Art Unit: 3639

automatically transmitting the obtained requirement-indicating data from a first business entity to a second business entity over a communications network, (col. 12, lines 5-12, Here, succeeding events in sequential business processes are triggered and each worker builds upon the information base established by the preceding workers, and for example, following sales, process flow may continue to sales support, accounting, etc, and in this case, sales support is part of the product domain and accounting is part of the payment domain, w/col. 5, lines 56-63, shows breakdown of different business domains);

automatically feeding the transmitted requirement-indicating data into an electronic processor for monitoring the transactional subject, the electronic processor being associated with an electronic processing system of the second business entity, (col. 6, lines 10-15, Here, Wong shows that triggering occurs within the single database management system to propagate activity from one business domain to a succeeding business domain, e.g., from shipping in the products domain to accounts payable in the payments domain without duplication of human efforts. In this case, the electronic processors are inherent with Wong since Wong teaches a computing environment in which his invention may be used. In this case, Wong implements a Web-enabled, client/server relational database management system. This type of computing system needs to use processors in order to process information being transmitted to and from files of the databases).

generating a business decision of the first business entity and the second business entity that is based on the requirement-indicating data and that is made solely

Art Unit: 3639

by the electronic processing system without the need for manual data entry into or manual data extraction from the electronic processing system with the second business entity, (Col. 33, lines 15-16, Here, Wong shows that when an order is shipped [part of operations of the product domain], a customer invoice is automatically issued [part of the payment domain]. In this case the first business entity is represented by the product domain, the second business entity is represented by the payment domain, and the decision is represented by producing an invoice automatically after the order is shipped).

As per claim 3, Wong discloses:

wherein the obtaining step comprises obtaining inventory-tracking data, the inventory-tracking data including at least one of consumption data and inventory data, (col. 24, lines 16-25, [available inventory]).

As per claim 4, Wong discloses:

wherein the generating step comprises generating an order as the business decision, the order being for the transactional subject based on the requirement-indicating data, (col. 48, lines 63-65, [preparing records of ordered items so orders can be received]).

As per claim 5, Wong discloses:

wherein the generating step comprises generating a shipping instruction as the business decision, the shipping instruction being for the transactional subject based on the requirement indicating data, (col. 49, line 7, [preparing records of installed items for shipping]).

Art Unit: 3639

As per claim 6, Wong discloses:

wherein the feeding step comprises feeding the transmitted requirement-indicating data into an enterprise resource planning system as the electronic processor, (abstract, lines 1-14, [software facilitated by using a computing model, w/col. 11, lines 30-36, [system user entering information]]).

As per claim 8, Wong discloses:

wherein the transmitting step comprises transmitting superseding requirement-indicating data on an as-needed basis to replace prior requirement-indicating data at the second business entity, (col. 12, lines 5-12, Here, succeeding events in sequential business processes are triggered and each worker builds upon the information base established by the preceding workers, and for example, following sales, process flow may continue to sales support, accounting, etc, and in this case, sales support is part of the product domain and accounting is part of the payment domain, w/col. 5, lines 56-63, shows breakdown of different business domains);

As per claim 34, Wong discloses:

Wherein the business decision comprises an order processing decision, (col. 4, lines 30-45, placing an order and processing the order).

As per claim 35, Wong discloses:

Wherein the order processing decision comprises procuring a production material for either said first business entity or said second business entity, (Col. 4, lines 34-36, receiving the product).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 7, 9-13, 18-22, 36, 37, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong (US 6,115,690), and further in view of Huang et al (US 5,953,707).

As per claims 2, 21, Wong fails to disclose "wherein the obtaining step comprises obtaining demand-indicating data, the demand-indicating data including at least one of demand data and forecast data on the transactional subject", but Wong does disclose obtaining requirement-indicating data in Col. 42, lines 65-67.

However, Huang et al discloses "wherein the obtaining step comprises obtaining demand-indicating data, the demand-indicating data including at least one of demand data and forecast data on the transactional subject", (Col. 12, line 52-Col. 13, line 1, [using forecasts to manage demand requirements]). Huang et al discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that demand data can be managed for different sources in order implement decision support.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to incorporate demand-indicating data into a decision support

Art Unit: 3639

system with the motivation of managing customer's requirements according to demand and/or forecast information.

As per claim 7, Wong fails to disclose wherein the obtaining step comprises comprising extracting a subset of the requirement-indicating data from a requirement-indicating database associated with an enterprise resource planning system, but Wong does disclose obtaining requirement-indicating data in Col. 42, lines 65-67.

However, Huang et al discloses:

wherein the obtaining step comprises comprising extracting a subset of the requirement-indicating data from a requirement-indicating database associated with an enterprise resource planning system, (Col. 10, lines 45-46 and lines 49-50, [shows component requirement in database]). Huang discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that requirements need to be filled in order to obtain data.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to extract a subset of the requirement-indicating data from a requirement-indicating database associated with an enterprise resource planning system with the motivation of showing that requirements are necessary to access data.

As per claim 9, Wong fails to disclose wherein the transmitting step comprises transmitting differential data for expressing a change with respect to prior requirement indicating data at the second business entity, but Wong does disclose obtaining requirement-indicating data in Col. 42, lines 65-67.

However Huang discloses:

Art Unit: 3639

wherein the transmitting step comprises transmitting differential data for expressing a change with respect to prior requirement indicating data at the second business entity, (Col. 83, line 64-Col. 85, line 25, [shows use of differential values used to express change with respect to normal distribution]). Huang discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of express change with respect to the normal distribution]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to transmit differential data for expressing a change with respect to prior requirement indicating data at the second business entity with the motivation of showing how change reflects the system data.

As per claim 10, Wong fails to disclose wherein the generating step comprises generating the business decision on production of the transactional subject based on an exchange of the requirement-indicating data at a regular interval, the regular interval having a duration that depends upon a nature of the business of the first business entity and the second business entity, but Wong does disclose obtaining requirement-indicating data in Col. 42, lines 65-67.

However Huang discloses:

wherein the generating step comprises generating the business decision on production of the transactional subject based on an exchange of the requirement-indicating data at a regular interval, the regular interval having a duration that depends upon a nature of the business of the first business entity and the second business entity, (Col. 4, lines 47-62, [decision support], Col. 5, lines 51-52, [visual data exchange]

Art Unit: 3639

and Col. 5, line 66-Col. 6, line 1, [invoking a vertical decision support thread going through visual objects, decision logic, etc., Col. 35, lines 58-61, [generating longer term replenishment requirements]]. Huang discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that the requirement term can be adjusted accordingly.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to generate the business decision on production of the transactional subject based on an exchange of the requirement-indicating data at a regular interval, the regular interval having a duration that depends upon a nature of the business of the first business entity and the second business entity with the motivation of showing that time intervals can be adjusted with respect to requirement data.

As per claims 11, 12, Wong discloses:

Obtaining...-indicating data with respect to a transactional subject, (col. 11, lines 32-38, Here the first entity is represented by the first system user, the transactional subject is represented by the sales assignment or activity focus, and in this case, the user enters information which is quality checked, representing the requirement-indicating data);

automatically transmitting the obtained...-indicating data from a first business entity to a second business entity over a communications network, , (col. 12, lines 5-12, Here, succeeding events in sequential business processes are triggered and each worker builds upon the information base established by the preceding workers, and for example, following sales, process flow may continue to sales support, accounting, etc, and in this case, sales support is part of the product domain and accounting is part of

Art Unit: 3639

the payment domain, w/col. 5, lines 56-63, shows breakdown of different business domains);

automatically feeding the transmitted...-indicating data into an electronic processor for monitoring the transactional subject, the electronic processor being associated with an electronic processing system of the second business entity, (col. 6, lines 10-15, Here, Wong shows that triggering occurs within the single database management system to propagate activity from one business domain to a succeeding business domain, e.g., from shipping in the products domain to accounts payable in the payments domain without duplication of human efforts. In this case, the electronic processors are inherent with Wong since Wong teaches a computing environment in which his invention may be used. In this case, Wong implements a Web-enabled, client/server relational database management system. This type of computing system needs to use processors in order to process information being transmitted to and from files of the databases).

generating a business decision of at least one of the first business entity and the second business entity that is based on the...-indicating data, and that is made solely by the electronic processing system without the need for manual data entry into or manual data extraction from the electronic data processing system, (Col. 33, lines 15-16, Here, Wong shows that when an order is shipped [part of operations of the product domain], a customer invoice is automatically issued [part of the payment domain]. In this case the first business entity is represented by the product domain, the second

Art Unit: 3639

business entity is represented by the payment domain, and the decision is represented by producing an invoice automatically after the order is shipped).

Wong does not specifically teach demand-indicating data or wherein the obtaining step comprises accessing the demand-indicating data in a database associated with an enterprise planning resource system, but Wong does disclose requirement-indicating data in Col. 42, lines 65-67.

However, Huang et al discloses demand-indicating data in (Col. 12, line 52-Col. 13, line 1, [using forecasts to manage demand requirements]). Huang et al discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that demand data can be managed for different sources in order implement decision support.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to incorporate demand-indicating data into a decision support system with the motivation of managing customer's requirements according to demand and/or forecast information.

As per claim 13, Wong fails to disclose wherein the obtaining step comprises updating demand-indicating data in the database on a daily basis after an end of a business day and prior to a beginning of a next successive business day, but Wong does disclose requirement-indicating data in Col. 42, lines 65-67.

However, Huang discloses:

wherein the obtaining step comprises updating demand-indicating data in the database on a daily basis after an end of a business day and prior to a beginning of a next successive business day, (Col. 94, lines 29-33, [modify demand distributions]).

Art Unit: 3639

Huang discloses this limitation in an analogous art to show that demand data can be changed accordingly.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to update demand-indicating data in the database on a daily basis with the motivation of having the database reflect the most recent values for demand data.

As per claim 18, Wong discloses:

displaying the demand-indicating data for a user affiliated with one of the first business entity and the second business entity, (Col. 7, lines 17-19, [display any Web user special request]).

As per claims 19 and 20, Wong discloses:

wherein the business decision comprises deciding to change the manufactured quantity of a material as the transactional subject/ wherein the business decision comprises deciding to change a supply of material to fulfill a firm demand derived from the demand-indicating data, (Col. 27, lines 14-20, [eliminate related "no partial" items]).

As per claim 22, Wong discloses:

wherein the first business entity represents a customer of the material as the transactional subject and wherein the second business entity represents a supplier of the material, (col. 47, lines 9-11, [where the 1st business in Wong is analogous to the 2nd business in the present invention (supplier), and the 2nd business in Wong is analogous to the 1st business in the present invention (purchaser/customer)].

Art Unit: 3639

As per claim 36, Wong fails to disclose wherein the transmitting step transmits the demand-indicating data in the database on a daily basis after an end of a business day and prior to a beginning of a next successive business day, but Wong does disclose a Web-enabled business-to business software system that utilizes requirement –indicating data in the abstract, lines 1-5, Col. 42, lines 65-67.

However, Huang et al discloses:

Wherein the business decision comprises engaging in a commercial transaction involving the transactional subject, (Col. 96, lines 20-30, commercial setting). Huang et al discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that inventory transactions occur in an commercial environment.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to engage in a commercial transaction involving the transactional subject with the motivation of commercially conducting a business transaction.

As per claim 37, Wong fails to disclose wherein the commercial transaction comprises purchase of the transactional subject, but Wong does disclose a Web-enabled business-to business software system that utilizes requirement –indicating data in the abstract, lines 1-5, Col. 42, lines 65-67.

However, Huang et al discloses:

wherein the commercial transaction comprises purchase of the transactional subject, (col. 96, lines 28-30, reorder point system in a commercial setting). Huang et al discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that an item can be reordered in a commercial environment.

Art Unit: 3639

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to purchase the transactional subject with the motivation of completing the transaction by obtaining the item.

6. Claims 14-17, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong (US 6,115,690), and further in view of Huang et al (US 5,953,707).

As per claim 14, Wong fails to disclose the following, but Wong does disclose a Web-enabled business-to business software system that utilizes requirement – indicating data in the abstract, lines 1-5, Col. 42, lines 65-67.

However, Huang discloses:

extracting a relevant portion of the demand-indicating data from the database, (Col. 223, lines 20-23, [demand information is stored in database], w/ col. 41, lines 40-51). Huang discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that demand data can be readily retrieved.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to extract a relevant portion of demand-indicating data from a database with the motivation of retrieving the demand data and making a business decision in relation to the retrieved data.

Neither Wong, nor Huang et al disclose the following, but Wong does disclose requirement-indicating data in Col. 42, lines 65-67.

However, Boris et al discloses:

formatting the extracted relevant portion of the demand-indicating data into an extensible mark-up language document, (col. 11, lines 27-52, shows use of XML).

Art Unit: 3639

Boris et al disclose this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that XML is used to write schema programs that are compiled using the compiler.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to format the extracted relevant portion of the demand-indicating data into an extensible mark-up language document with the motivation of transforming, then transmitting the document into the most accurate format.

As per claim 15, Wong fails to disclose wherein the transmitting step comprises transmitting the extensible mark-up language document as the demand-indicating data over the communications network, however Wong does disclose a system that utilizes requirement -indicating data in Col. 42, lines 65-67.

However, Boris et al discloses:

wherein the transmitting step comprises transmitting the extensible mark-up language document as the demand-indicating data over the communications network, (col. 21, line 65-Col. 22,line 3, HTML). Boris et al discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that HTML is used for maintainability and extensibility in a framework.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to format the extracted relevant portion of the demand-indicating data into an extensible mark-up language document and delivering a requested document in an HTML form with the motivation of transforming, then transmitting the document into the most accurate format.

Art Unit: 3639

As per claim 16, Wong fails to disclose receiving the transmitted extensible mark-up language document; and translating the extensible mark-up language document into a data format compatible with an enterprise planning resource system, but Wong does disclose a Web-enabled business-to business software system that utilizes requirement – indicating data in the abstract, lines 1-5, Col. 42, lines 65-67.

However, Boris et al discloses:

receiving the transmitted extensible mark-up language document; and translating the extensible mark-up language document into a data format compatible with an enterprise planning resource system, (col. 11, lines 27-52, shows use of XML). Boris et al disclose this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that XML is used to write schema programs that are compiled using the compiler.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to receiving the transmitted extensible mark-up language document; and translating the extensible mark-up language document into a data format compatible with an enterprise planning resource system with the motivation of transmitting the document into the most accurate format.

As per claim 17, neither Wong, nor Huang et al disclose wherein the transmitting step transmits the demand-indicating data in the database on a daily basis after an end of a business day and prior to a beginning of a next successive business day, but Wong does disclose a Web-enabled business-to business software system that utilizes requirement – indicating data in the abstract, lines 1-5, Col. 42, lines 65-67.

However, Boris et al discloses:

wherein the transmitting step transmits the demand-indicating data in the database on a daily basis after an end of a business day and prior to a beginning of a next successive business day, (col. 4, lines 44-47, streamlining)). Boris et al discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose giving a complete representation of the relationships between the components in the project.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to transmit the demand-indicating data in the database on a daily basis after an end of a business day and prior to a beginning of a next successive business day with the motivation of keeping an up-to-date database.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-22 and 34-37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Akiba K Robinson-Boyce whose telephone number is 571-272-6734. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday 8:30am-5pm, and Wednesday, 8:30 am-12:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7238

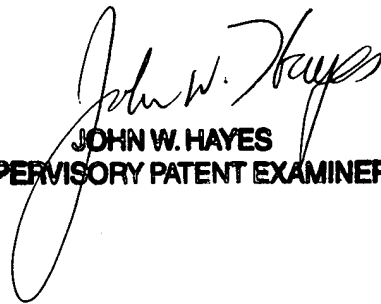
Art Unit: 3639

[After final communications, labeled "Box AF"], 703-746-7239 [Official Communications], and 703-746-7150 [Informal/Draft Communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"].

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



A. R. B.
November 22, 2005



JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER